

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our longtime friend, Rudy Clements, was remembered at services at the Simnasho Longhouse. For those who may not be aware, Rudy, a longtime official of the Warm Springs Tribe and a very good friend of the Siletz Tribe, died in December.

Starting from before Siletz Restoration in the early 1970s, Rudy was involved in helping our tribal members gain employment and training under the old federal CETA program, which he was responsible for coordinating statewide.

When the Siletz Tribe launched its effort to be restored, Rudy was there for us, contributing his encouragement and advocacy. We were honored to have him as our guest speaker at a recent Restoration Celebration. He was a true and faithful friend until his untimely death just a month ago.

Rudy was a proven leader not only in his own tribe, but also in the state of Oregon and the Northwest. He was knowledgeable about major Indian issues and was articulate in expressing them on behalf of all tribes.

Most recently, Rudy worked on Indian gaming issues and was the lead person in the Warm Springs' effort to establish a casino at Cascade Locks.

I know personally with what passion and commitment he worked toward achieving that objective. Although I am sad that he could not live to see that dream fulfilled, the Warm Springs Council continues to work to establish a Cascade Locks casino. The Siletz Tribe is committed to render its



Delores Pigsley

support to see that his – and his tribe's – dream comes true.

At his funeral, Rudy was warmly remembered as a trusting, faithful, and devoted employee and tribesman who brought people together to work toward common goals and solutions. That is how I, and many Siletz members, will always remember him as well.

Tribal Council Calendar of Activities and Issues

The Tribal Council has established its calendar for 2006 with fixed dates for meetings and other activities. In February, following the general election, the Tribal Council will elect its officers and appoint committee members.

Any tribal member who is interested can volunteer to serve on any one

of a variety of committees of his or her area of interest. Serving on committees is a golden opportunity for tribal members to become more knowledgeable about – and have a direct input in – policies and programs, whether it's in the area of education, health, forestry, culture, etc.

One problem has been that over the years, the tribe has had difficulty filling committee vacancies. As a result, some tribal members have ended up serving on more than one committee.

In order to spread the load, we need more volunteers to serve. I encourage all interested members to look over the list of committee vacancies and to apply on the appropriate form.

Being Informed About Tribal Issues

Another matter of concern involves something that happens during every tribal election. Some candidates for council complain they are kept in the dark about tribal issues, pointing to what they perceive as the Tribal Council's failure to keep them informed.

Their concerns, however, are typically about issues that have already been covered – sometimes thoroughly – in Tribal Council and General Council meetings as well as in *Siletz News* or *Nesika Illahee*.

I regret if there are lapses in communication. The council tries to keep our lines of communication open and information about tribal issues available through various means. Tribal members are encouraged to attend Tribal Council and General Council meetings and to obtain copies of minutes and other written documents.

Tribal members need only take the time to take advantage of these sources to be kept informed. Information also can be obtained from council members by phone, e-mail, and regular mail.

Although tribal members often are reminded they are welcome to attend Tribal Council and General Council meetings where issues are aired, few do. And further, although any tribal member

can obtain the minutes of council meetings upon request, very few ask for them. Minutes can be received electronically.

In the end, the Tribal Council's responsibility is to make information available to our membership. It's our members' responsibility to take advantage of the information that's available to them.

Siletz Policies Governing Nepotism

Finally, many of you have asked that I comment on the issue of nepotism – that is, issues involving favoritism shown to a relative as in giving an appointive job, preference in promotions, demotions, supervising of employees, etc., based on relationship.

I am pleased to report that over the years, the Siletz Tribe has developed personnel policies and ethics codes that have effectively addressed this issue.

The policy of the Siletz Tribe is that no tribal employee can supervise another who is related to the employee as a mother, father, brother, sister, child or someone living in that person's household.

If we were to go further with this policy and ban nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins, we would end up not having any tribal members employed.

Under our current established policy, all Tribal Council members are involved in the evaluation of high-echelon personnel that includes the general managers of the casino and tribal administration, the gaming commission executive director, the Siletz Tribal economic development executive director, our internal auditor, and the council secretary. Their evaluations are rated on very detailed criteria on forms that each council member is required to complete.

The Tribal Council itself is subject to the ethics policy and tribal staff members are subject to the tribe's personnel and operations policies that govern issues of nepotism. Those who work for the tribe and at the same time serve on the council are subject to both.

No one to this date has challenged these policies.

Some Siletz Tribal Children Need You!

The Indian Child Welfare Program needs good homes for temporary and long-term placement for some of our Siletz Tribal children. Foster homes and homes for relative placements are needed, both locally and within the 11-county service area.

If you are thinking of becoming a foster parent or relative placement, or just have questions, contact Sandra Simmons at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1275, or 541-444-8275. Packets on the certification process and information sessions are available upon request.

Most Often Requested Numbers

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1-800-922-1399
Salem Area Office	503-390-9494
Salem Finance Office	1-888-870-9051
Portland Area Office	503-238-1512
Eugene Area Office	541-484-4234
Springfield Siletz Tribal Head Start	541-747-0161
Contract Health Services (CHS)	1-800-628-5720
Siletz Community Health Clinic	1-800-648-0449
Siletz Alcohol and Drug	1-800-600-5599
Chinook Winds Casino Resort	1-888-244-6665
Chemawa Health Clinic	1-800-452-7823
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1-800-323-8517
Web Site	www.ctsi.nsn.us

Nuu-wee-ya'

(our words)

Introduction to the Athabaskan Language

Open to tribal members of all ages

Siletz

Siletz Tribal Community Center

Feb. 7 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

March 7 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Salem

Salem Area Office

Feb. 13 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

March 13 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Portland

Portland Area Office

Feb. 14 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

March 14 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Eugene

Eugene Area Office

Feb. 6 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

March 6 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tribal members who need help on cultural projects should contact the Siletz Culture Department. We can assist you prior to the language classes.

For more information, contact Bud Lane at the Siletz Culture Department at 541-444-8320 or 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1320; or e-mail budl@ctsi.nsn.us.